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LETTER DATED 17 MARCH 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF DENMARK TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued on 17 March 1993, by the European Community and its Member States concerning the decision by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to withdraw from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Bent HAAKONSEN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Denmark
to the United Nations

Annex

STATEMENT

The European Community and its Member States express great concern at the decision by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to withdraw from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), of which notification was given to the United Nations Security Council on 12 March 1993.

The European Community and its Member States consider nuclear proliferation to be a major threat to global security and stability, and they believe that the universal accession to the NPT and the full compliance with its obligations are the best ways to guarantee nuclear non-proliferation.

From a global perspective, the safeguards inspections carried out by the IAEA under the NPT are of crucial importance for the efficient functioning of the Treaty and therefore need to be as effective as possible. The NPT has recently made considerable progress in universality and efficiency. Withdrawal from the NPT by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and her refusal to have her entire nuclear programme inspected by the IAEA can therefore only have a detrimental effect on the non-proliferation regime as a whole.

The European Community and its Member States therefore strongly urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to reverse her decision and to fulfil all her obligations under the NPT and the Safeguards Agreement. Furthermore, it has to be noted that these obligations remain in force for three months after an official notification of withdrawal.